

# Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023



## Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

200 East Beidler Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

[www.PeaceWithGod.com](http://www.PeaceWithGod.com)

[Office@PeaceWithGod.com](mailto:Office@PeaceWithGod.com) Phone: 610-337-1997

During our pastoral vacancy:

Vacancy Pastor Rev. Huffman	<a href="mailto:rogerwhuffman@gmail.com">rogerwhuffman@gmail.com</a>	610-256-5522
Elder Mark Harris	<a href="mailto:wiscobadger75@verizon.net">wiscobadger75@verizon.net</a>	610-563-3371
Elder Jim Dietz	<a href="mailto:jhdietz@pm.me">jhdietz@pm.me</a>	610-247-3783
Elder Keith Clemens	<a href="mailto:mkclemens@gmail.com">mkclemens@gmail.com</a>	610-220-6446

## THE SERVICE – SETTING ONE

**THREAD:** *Our God patiently seeks fruits of faith.*

### Hymn: Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You

CW 871



1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em - ploy you, O Chris-tians, lest the  
2 Cast a - far this world's vain plea - sure and bold - ly strive for  
3 Je - sus, all your chil - dren cher - ish, and keep them that they



foe de - stroy you, for Sa - tan has de - signed your fall.  
heav'n - ly trea - sure. Be stead - fast in the Sav - ior's might.  
nev - er per - ish whom you have pur - chased with your blood.



Wield God's Word, a weap - on glo - rious; a - gainst each foe you'll  
Trust the Lord, who stands be - side you, for Je - sus from all  
Let new life to us be giv - en that we may look to



be vic - to - rious, for God will set you o'er them all.  
harm will hide you. By faith you'll con - quer in the fight.  
you in heav - en when - ev - er fear - ful is our mood.



Fear not the prince of hell, here is Im - man - u - el!  
Take cour - age, wea - ry soul! Look for - ward to the goal!  
Your Spir - it on us pour that we may love you more,



Sing ho - san - na! The strong ones yield to Christ, our shield,  
Joy a - waits you. The race, then, run; your bat - tle done,  
hearts o'er - flow - ing; and then shall we, from sin set free,



and we as con - qu'rors hold the field.  
the crown of glo - ry will be won.  
sing praise through all e - ter - ni - ty.

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only - begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;  
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;  
 have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer.  
 You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.  
 For you on - ly are holy; you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the  
 Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

*In an agricultural society, it's not surprising that results are described in terms of growing things. In our Isaiah passage, God describes looking for spiritual growth by using an analogy of a vineyard. The vintner does everything to make the vineyard produce the best grapes. Then he waits. In the end, the grapes are sour. So, he tears down his vineyard. In the same manner, God is patiently waiting for spiritual development. Yet, eventually there is judgement.*

<sup>1</sup>I will sing for the one I love  
 a song about his vineyard:

My loved one had a vineyard  
 on a fertile hillside.

<sup>2</sup>He dug it up and cleared it of stones  
 and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it

and cut out a winepress as well.  
Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,  
but it yielded only bad fruit.

<sup>3</sup>“Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup>What more could have been done for my vineyard  
than I have done for it?

When I looked for good grapes,  
why did it yield only bad?

<sup>5</sup>Now I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge,  
and it will be destroyed;

I will break down its wall,  
and it will be trampled.

<sup>6</sup>I will make it a wasteland,  
neither pruned nor cultivated,  
and briars and thorns will grow there.

I will command the clouds  
not to rain on it.”

<sup>7</sup>The vineyard of the LORD Almighty

is the nation of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are the vines he delighted in.

And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;  
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Restore Us

Psalm 80C

### Refrain



Re - store us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

### Tone



Hear us, Shepherd of / Israel,  
you who lead Joseph / like a flock.  
You who sit enthroned between the / cherubim,  
awaken your might; come and / save us.  
How long, LORD God Al- / mighty,  
will your anger smolder against the prayers of your / people?  
You have made us an object of derision to our / neighbors,  
and our enemies / mock us. **Refrain**

You transplanted a vine from / Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and / planted it.  
You cleared the / ground for it,  
and it took root and / filled the land.  
Why have you broken / down its walls  
so that all who pass by / pick its grapes?  
Return to us, God Al- / mighty!  
Look down from / heav'n and see!  
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Text: The Holy Bible, English Standard Version; © 2001 Crossway a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712488; Tune: © 2006 Jeffrey N. Bleresch.  
Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712488

## Second Reading

Philippians 3:12–21

*In our first lesson, we looked at spiritual growth by the analogy of a vineyard. In this lesson, the Apostle Paul describes spiritual growth as constantly reaching toward a higher goal. How do we do that? We think and act according to who we are in Christ. We live drastically different lives than the people of this world who worship material things.*

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. <sup>16</sup>Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

<sup>17</sup>Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. <sup>18</sup>For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Ephesians 2:10

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For we are God's handiwork,

**created in Christ Jesus to do good works.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel

Matthew 21:33–43

*In our Gospel reading, Jesus takes us back to a vineyard. Like the Isaiah passage, the landowner did everything needed to have a great vineyard. The landowner trusted this vineyard to others. What did they do? They produced grapes for themselves and even wanted to steal the vineyard. Does this sound familiar as we look at our world? The landowner waited patiently, but in the end, the evil tenants met a wretched end and other tenants moved in. Thinking spiritually, killing the Son doesn't lead to victory for evil, but unleashes both judgment and the marvelous grace of God.*

<sup>33</sup>“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place.

<sup>34</sup>When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

<sup>35</sup>“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. <sup>36</sup>Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. <sup>37</sup>Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

<sup>38</sup>“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

<sup>40</sup>“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

<sup>41</sup>“He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“ ‘The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

<sup>43</sup>“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Hymn of the Day: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

CW 862



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would seek to o - ver - throw your  
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your Chris - ten - dom that  
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son and to de - stroy what he has done.  
we may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
strife and lead us out of death to life.

## Sermon

Matthew 21:33-43

### The Lord’s Love Endures Even in Judgment

- A. How extraordinary his love is!
- B. How worthy of our fruit his love is!

*Sermon by Rev. Gregg Bitter, adapted. Used by permission*

*Ministering Elder: Jim Dietz*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture.

Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith.

Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

... Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**



Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

**Offering** – *The mail at church is being collected. Offerings may be mailed to:*

*Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, 200 E. Beidler Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406*

## Hymn: Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

CW 644



- 1 Al - might - y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the foe of Christ and man this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 When - e'er the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and right - eous fruits a - bound.  
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Let us pray:

God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

# Hymn: God Loved the World So That He Gave

CW 570



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, who was made  
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; his Son with  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives the



Son the lost to save that all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in  
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the  
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
him a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
Word de - clares that we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.  
Je - sus' blood; bap - tized, you are a child of God.

- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;  
this is the anchor of my faith!
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessèd Trinity,  
be praise now and eternally!

## Silent prayer – Announcements

### Acknowledgments: Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

Where no copyright information for hymns is mentioned, text and tune are public domain.

Bulletin graphics purchased from Paramentics.com.